

more dark-skinned a person is, the more their Vitiligo stands out. Because of the contrast between affected and unaffected areas of skin. In half of all Vitiligo cases, onset occurs between the ages of 10 and 30. There are, however, reported cases of Vitiligo present at birth.

Over 30% of affected individuals may report a positive family history. Both genetic and environmental factors contribute to Vitiligo. Many patients attribute the onset of their Vitiligo to physical trauma, illness or emotional distress, such as the death of a family member.

Treatment of this disease is essential. Vitiligo profoundly impacts the social and psychological well-being of its victims, especially children. Although, this disease is painless, the disfigurement of Vitiligo—accentuated among persons with dark or tan skin—can be devastating. Raising the public's awareness of this disease and its known treatment will bring relief to those who suffer from Vitiligo.

April has been declared Vitiligo Awareness Month by Governor Jeb Bush of Florida. The American Vitiligo Research Foundation, located in my district in Clearwater, Florida, is holding a seminar in April to bring attention to this disease. This is an opportunity for researchers and doctors to discuss and share information about Vitiligo. The seminar will also afford children with the disease the opportunity to understand that they are not alone.

I would like to thank Stella Pavlides of Clearwater, Florida, who brought this disease to my attention, and I commend her dedication to educating the public about Vitiligo. Although this disease does not physically harm a person, it can destroy one's spirit. Increased public awareness is the only way to help reduce the discrimination experienced by patients living with this disease.

CELEBRATING THE WOMEN OF
LEWISTON/AUBURN

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleague's attention to a dinner being held next week in the Lewiston/Auburn communities of Maine. The event, "Celebrating the Women of L/A," will honor women who have touched the lives of others in their communities.

For decades, the women of Lewiston and Auburn—like those throughout Maine, the nation and the world—have raised children, served as caregivers, worked inside and outside the home, and volunteered their time and talents. They have maintained a strong and quiet foundation for our families that has nourished us all. The celebration will recognize all that women bring to families and our community.

Those submitting nominations were asked to briefly describe what it was about the nominee that made her such a special and important part of the community. Here are a few examples:

She has a remarkable zest for life and a strong compassion for people who are less

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fortunate than herself. She is a woman with seemingly endless energy, who knows no bounds when called upon to help.

Growing up all of my friends called her "Mom." Never one to pass judgment on our friends, she trusted that we would make the right choices. She always taught us to look beyond the surface. Those who know her know that they don't come much better than this. She is everything that I would ever want to be.

She is a wise person beyond her years. Her generosity is beyond words. She has a very kind heart and expects nothing in return. Her joy is seeing others happy.

In the professional arena, she has broadened her skills and experience by accepting new challenges and has dared to take on new responsibilities as she uncovered each potential opportunity.

She has deep morals and a deep spiritual connection to this universe. The world and my life would be a different place without her in it.

She is a very independent young woman who tries everyday to be true to herself. She understands that a healthy spirit allows her to be the best she can be for herself and everyone else that she loves.

She exemplifies everything that is fantastic in contemporary womanhood; she is strong, self-directed, intelligent, warm, involved, and committed to her community and its people.

When all else fails, she will at least make you laugh.

These are but a few examples of the testimonials received on behalf of the honorees. They speak to the importance and influence that these women have had on their families, colleagues, and communities.

I am proud to have the opportunity to pay tribute to the following Women of L/A here in the House of Representatives. The Honorees are Marie-Paule Badeau, Wendy Jean Beaucage, Kathryn Beaulé, Kim Blake, Sue Bowie, Rachael Caron, Joy Carter, Sonja Christiansen, Betty DeCoster, Kayt Demerchant, Lorraine Gosselin, Sandra Hinds, Melissa Holt, Pat Landean, Cathy Levesque, Marty McIntyre, Debbie McLean, Kathleen Noel King, Beverly Ouellette, Cecelia Palange/Sister Mary Vincent, Therese Parent, Joline Richard, Alta Rogers, Doris Roy, Therese Samson-Blais, Dale Sherburne, Lise Smith, Marguerite Stapleton, Jess Whitaker, and Janelle Wing.

These 30 women are all extremely deserving of this recognition, and I congratulate them as they are recognized for their efforts in the home, in the workplace and in the community. I know that they are also representative of many other women throughout the communities and as we honor them, we also look around at the many other women who have made positive differences in L/A. I offer my thanks and best wishes to all the women of L/A for making Lewiston and Auburn such a strong and vibrant community.

March 21, 2001

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKES IN EL SALVADOR

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, the massive earthquakes that have hit El Salvador, first on January 13 with a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter Scale, and then on February 13 with a magnitude of 6.6, have brought untold hardships to a nation that has been working diligently to overcome previous natural disasters.

Hundreds of lives have been lost, thousands injured and a million more have been displaced, leaving them without food, water or shelter.

As Americans, it is our duty to pull together to help our friends and allies during times of extreme crisis. I urge our government to expedite relief efforts, especially where entities such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United States Agency for International Development are concerned.

This disaster also affected me on a deeply personal level—I spent two years in the Peace Corps and the people I met and worked with during my time in El Salvador's rural villages welcomed me into their homes and into their hearts. My deepest sympathies go out to the people of El Salvador for the losses they have had to endure.

I have spoken with President Francisco Flores of El Salvador and he has informed me that a massive relief effort is underway to provide shelter, food and water. Many families are still taking refuge in public areas and soccer stadiums. He also expressed fears that disease may run rampant due to open sewage pipes and contaminated water. I assured President Flores that I would do what I could, to bring attention to this crisis. I also told him about the efforts going on in my home district of San Jose to help coordinate relief efforts.

Although the situation needs much attention, the most important thing to remember is that there is hope. I have seen, with my own eyes, the ability of El Salvadorans to persevere—and with the efforts of the good people in the United States, we must and will help the people of El Salvador pull through this trying time. Again, I strongly urge that we expedite our efforts to bring relief to the people of El Salvador.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. ADAM SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month and I would like to take this opportunity to honor Stacey Murphy, an elected City Council-member of the City of Burbank, California, as 2001 Woman of the Year for California's 27th Congressional District.